



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Richard A. Howes et al.  
Serial No.: 09/954,507  
Filing Date: September 12, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 2666  
Examiner: Inder P. Mehra  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING  
CONNECTION STATE BETWEEN CONNECTION  
MANAGER AND A FAILOVER DEVICE

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner  
for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p><u>Willie Tyles</u> Name</p> <p><u>February 28, 2005</u> Date of Signature</p> <p>Express Mail No. EV 323318841 US</p>
---

**RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

In response to the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following Amendments thereto, and the comments as set forth below. Please amend the Application as follows.